

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the indication that Applicant's drawings are acceptable, for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 3-9 contain allowable subject matter, on page 3 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claim 1 will have been canceled and claims 2, 3 and 8-11 will have been amended. Claims 2-11 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicant notes that claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent form. Further, the remaining claims each depend from claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

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On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicant notes that claim 1 has been canceled by the present amendment, and that claims 2, 10 and 11 now depend from claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In regard to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-9 on page 3 of the Official Action, Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that none of the cited prior art teaches or fairly suggests the structure specified in each of these claims. However, Applicant wishes to make clear that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that the patentability of these claims is also based on the totality of the features recited therein, which define over the prior art. Thus the reasons for allowance should not be limited to those mentioned by the Examiner.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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October 1, 2004
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